

Edgartown Board of Health  
Minutes of September 22, 2021

Meegan M. Lancaster

Christopher Edwards

Candace A. Nichols

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM Bills and payrolls were authorized paid as submitted. Members of the public included: R. Gurnitz, Mike Santoro and Melinda & Paul Sowizral.

**Agents Report**

The Agent briefed the Board on information regarding the posted public hearing scheduled for today. He added **C. Alley of SBH** and calls from abutters for the **Gasnick public** hearing were received for the lack of a 21 day hearing notice as not being met and could not take place. This will also affect the **Cunningham public** notice posted for 5:15PM. The Agent stated if the Board would consider a new hearing day a notice can be issued by the applicants' agent with a meeting to be posted for October 13, for the times listed as: 4:45PM M. Gasnick and 5:15PM Cunningham. After a brief discussion by the members and inquiry by Ms. Sowizral (an abutter to Gasnick) a motion was made and unanimously approved to re-schedule the hearings for October 13, 2021. Melinda & Paul Sowizral thanked the Board and left the meeting.

**The MVRD modification** public hearing process was discussed. Contact was made with Mass. DEP officials concerning a site suitability determination for the pending minor site modification application as outlined in 310 CMR. 16.15. A document that will satisfy the "Report" from DEP will be sent and get the process underway. Agent Poole added, a date proposed could be late fall or early winter.

A succession **plan for the Board staff** as listed on the agenda was discussed. Both the HA and Assistant are approaching retirement age and will soon have term years to quality. Mention was made to the current 18 hr. position of Food Inspector with a salary line of \$ 25,500. The position currently is not staffed and a possible expansion of the hours to 20 with benefits may attract a viable candidate. Member Nichols inquired to the process to facilitate the position change and if the manner in which the current BI was hired can be utilized. Agent Poole added he will speak with the HR Director and request placement on the next Personal Board's agenda.

**At 5:05PM Reid Silva, PE** was before the Board as a continuation of the public hearing originally posted for August 11 for # 2 Bennet Way. Agent Poole added Mr. Silva as a co-host and the site plan was displayed to the Board. As determined at the prior hearing the variance request was made to propose the use of a MicroFast (now revised to add a NitROE system) and apply for a three bedroom on-site septic permit. Mr. Silva provided a short explanation for components of the NitROE Unit. The system is installed in a series of two units where the first chamber is for aeration via an external air pump. From that chamber the wastewater then gravity flows into a denitrification chamber with natural organics from wood chips, bacteria mediate the conversion of nitrate thru the gas venting. The Board briefly discussed the benefits of the NitROE system and its current status with DEP as "provisional" and how they can determine if a general use permit will be approved by DEP. Mention was also made concerning a local regulation where the technology could be approved but only if there is no other limiting factors such as a Zone II, AP-OH and Chappaquiddick land use regulations. At this time a motion was made all voting in favor to extend the variance request to the next scheduled meeting to allow Agent Poole and Mr. Silva time to discuss possible conditions for NitROE approval under this and similar circumstances. The Board agreed that it is important to not create a precedent by this decision that contradicts the BOH's longstanding bedroom limits and the credit allowed when enhanced treatment is utilized. Mr. Silva thanked the Board and left the meeting at 5:56PM.

**Agents Report, cont.**

Covid information was shared with the Board with mention made the fluctuation of positive test results. The prior week had some days with single digit of cases reported whereas the two weeks after saw an increase to 27 and 31 cases. There is concern among the Island Agents with the percentage of

vaccinated individuals testing positive and if a change to current mandatory indoor mask can be considered at this time. The Board further discussed the coming winter where a majority of actively will move indoor and they all agreed to continue the mandate. Mr. R Gurnitz inquired to the process in securing a booster shot at the MV Hospital and the difficulty of scheduling with the hospital's phone and online system. He also added the Island pharmacy are not providing the booster shot and was told mainland pharmacies have them available. The Board agreed to have the HA speak to the Hospital group and shae the public concerns for lack of available booster access.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Anthony-Hathaway, Assistant

Approved on:12/08/2021

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